

Police K9

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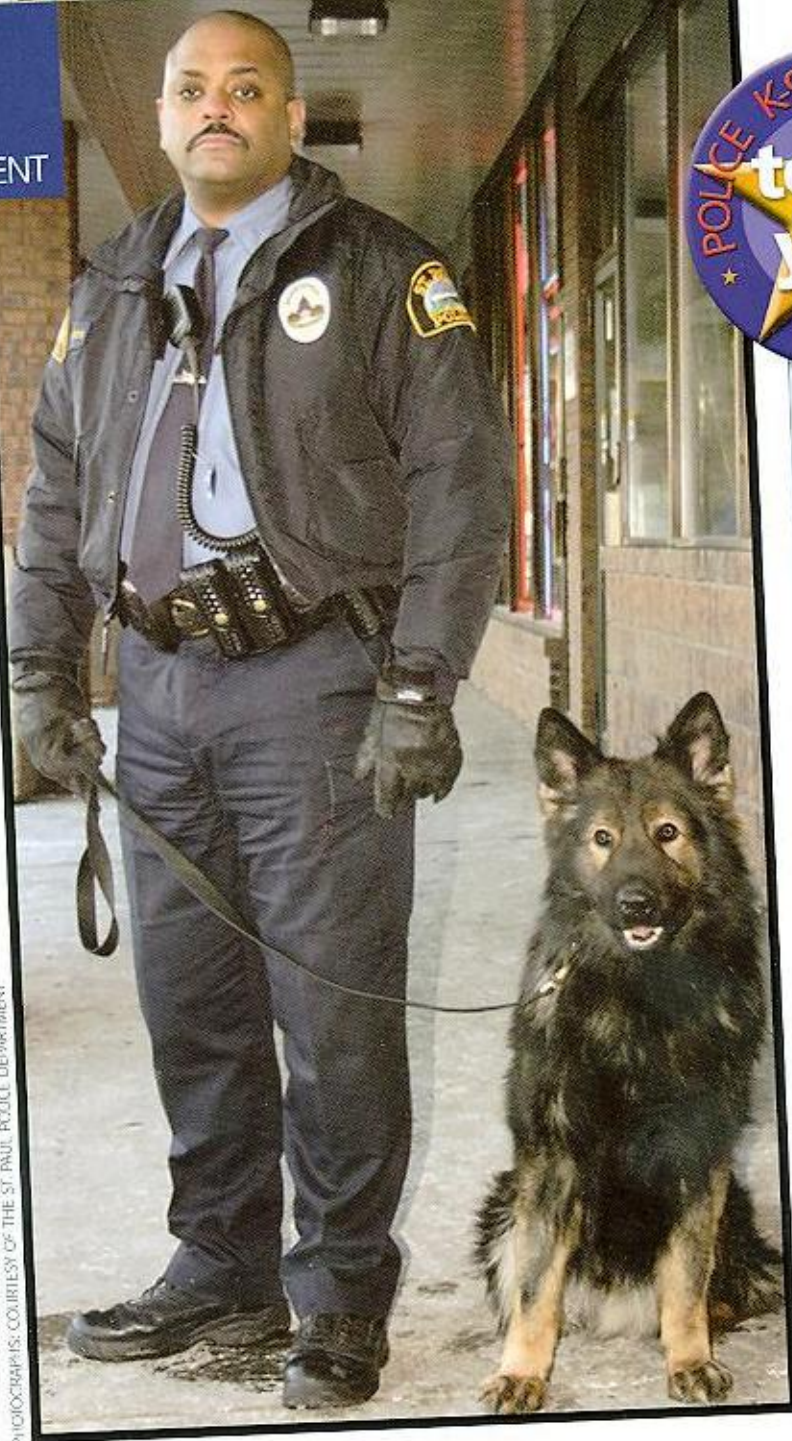


Officer Robert Edwards
& K-9 Rico

SUCCESSFUL RANGE TRAINING

Preventing Canine-to-Canine Aggression

DEPLOYMENT



PHOTOGRAPHS: COURTESY OF THE ST. PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT



Police K-9 Magazine congratulates

Officer Robert Edwards and K-9 Rico on winning our Team of the Year Award.

Officer Edwards has been a Saint Paul police officer for nine years. K-9 Rico is a two-and-one-half-year-old male German Shepherd. Both graduated from the Saint Paul Police Basic Canine Handler's School in May 2006. The following account of an outstanding deployment was written and submitted by Mark Ficcadenti and David Pavlak.



teamwork under fire

A HANDLER AND K-9 DISPLAY COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE IN A RUNNING GUN BATTLE.

ON OCTOBER 10, 2007, at 16:48 hours, Officer Robert Edwards and his partner, K-9 Rico, were called to assist narcotics officers in apprehending a dangerous felon who was wanted for narcotics trafficking and weapons violations. During the briefing, Officer Edwards and officers from 25 other jurisdictions learned that the suspect was deeply involved as an upper-level narcotics trafficker who was dealing in large transactions of methamphetamine and cocaine. The officers also learned that search warrants executed at the suspect's home resulted in the recovery not only of large amounts of narcotics, but of firearms as well.

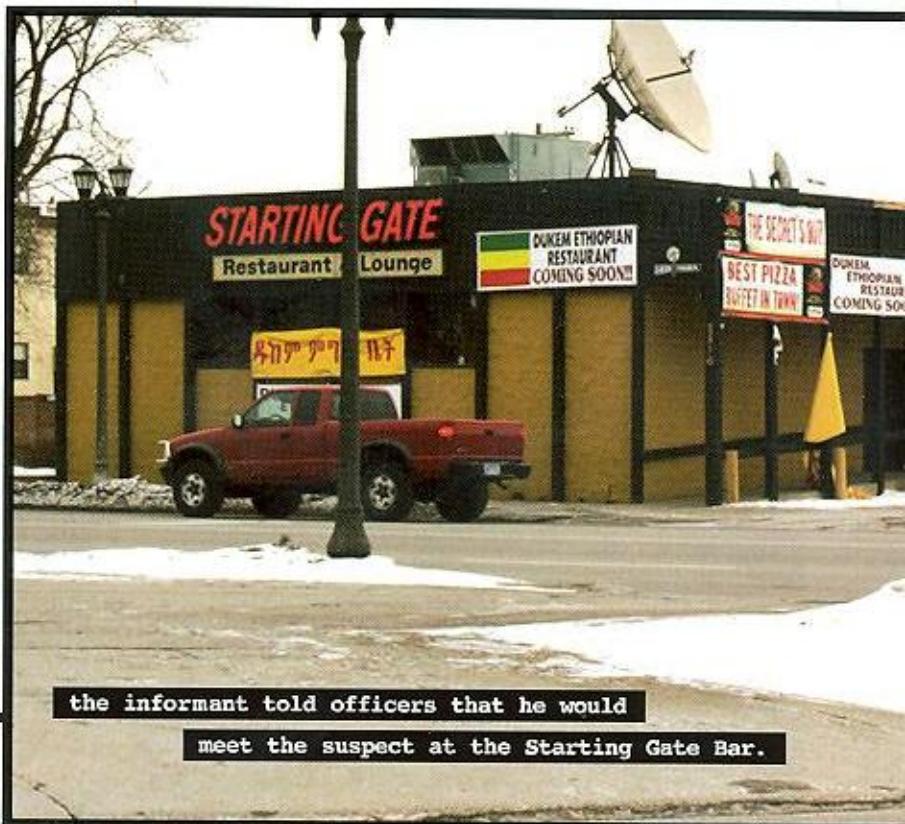
Narcotics agents briefed officers that the suspect told an informant that if he were accosted by law enforcement he would flee, fight, or shoot it out with the police rather than go back to prison. The informant related that the suspect was attempting to gather enough cash to flee the country and wanted to meet with him. So officers devised a plan to apprehend the suspect while he was meeting with the informant.

Officers In Pursuit

The informant told officers that the suspect would arrive at the Starting Gate Bar in a white Chevrolet pickup truck to pick him up. The plan was that Officer Edwards and other marked squads would then execute a traffic stop and take the suspect into custody. Before the traffic stop could be executed, however, the suspect saw a squad car and attempted to evade officers by speeding through the Sibley Plaza strip mall, which is located across the street from the Starting Gate Bar. The mall is a large complex that has



overall view of the area



the informant told officers that he would meet the suspect at the Starting Gate Bar.



Sibley Plaza strip mall (left) and the Starting Gate Bar (right).



the suspect saw a squad car and attempted to evade officers

by speeding through the Sibley Plaza strip mall.

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF THE ST. PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT

active pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic. The suspect sped out of the strip mall, drove westbound on West 7th Street, and entered Highway 5, leaving the city of Saint Paul. Officer Edwards and other officers were in pursuit.

According to officers, while the suspect was attempting to evade police, the informant was trying to jump out of the suspect vehicle, which hit speeds of nearly 80 mph. The

lengthy chase eventually entered the city of Minneapolis and, at the intersections of Elliot and Minnehaha Parkway, the suspect lost control of his truck and slammed into another vehicle. The suspect then left his truck and fled northbound on foot.

Officer Edwards arrived at the scene moments after the collision, and he and K-9 Rico chased the suspect on foot.



CANINE LEGAL UPDATE AND OPINIONS

for Canine Handlers, Supervisors, and Administrators:

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Presented by Terry Fleck, deputy sheriff and canine handler (retired) and author of the *Canine Legal Update and Opinions* for supervisors and administrators

plus patrol, narcotics and contraband, explosives, tracking, search and rescue, and accelerant dog teams. This seminar has been taught nationwide to more than 18,000 students. Praised for reducing canine-unit liability and increasing K-9 officer safety, this seminar has been updated and is now available for 2008.

The one-day course addresses the following issues:

- Canine deployment issues
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- Canine training
- Vicarious liability issues
- Narcotics and contraband canine case law
- Explosives canine case law
- Tracking canine case law

The course will address the legal issues of canine usage, canine tactics, and the prevention of litigation.

WOULD YOU OR YOUR AGENCY LIKE TO HOST A SEMINAR IN 2008?

Would you like to reduce your canine unit's liability and increase K-9 officer safety? If you or your agency are interested in hosting a one-day seminar in 2008, please contact Terry Fleck via e-mail at k9fleck@aol.com or by telephone at 530/545-2855. Logistics and costs will be provided on request.

OTHER FLECK TACTICAL SEMINARS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST:

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Most agencies make thousands of dollars profit from the seminar.

If you'd like to host a seminar in 2008, please contact Terry Fleck at k9fleck@aol.com or call 530/545-2855

teamwork under fire

Rico was still on lead, because Officer Edwards could not yet safely release him. The suspect ran north, then east down an alleyway with Officer Edwards and Rico in close pursuit. After issuing multiple warnings, which the suspect failed to heed, Officer Edwards released K-9 Rico to apprehend the suspect.

As K-9 Rico was in pursuit, the running suspect turned and pointed a black handgun at him. Officer Edwards drew his firearm and ordered the suspect to drop his weapon. The suspect failed to comply and continued running. He again raised his firearm (later identified as a loaded Hi-Point, semi-automatic 9mm pistol with laser sights) and redirected his aim from K-9 Rico to Officer Edwards.

The Takedown

Officer Edwards maintained pursuit and fired his handgun at the suspect. The suspect continued running and again turned with weapon in hand, pointing it at Officer Edwards. The officer again fired at the suspect, hitting him repeatedly. As the gunshots were being fired, K-9 Rico apprehended the suspect by grabbing hold of his right arm and taking him to the ground. K-9 Rico stayed committed to the apprehension and engaged the suspect in a ground fight as Officer Edwards sought concealment behind a hedgerow to assess Rico's actions.

Officer Edwards saw that K-9 Rico had the suspect on the ground and that the suspect had dropped his pistol during the apprehension. K-9 Rico held the struggling suspect firmly on the ground, allowing Officer Edwards to approach. The officer then coordinated backup officers to his location and, when they arrived, the suspect was handcuffed and K-9 Rico was removed from the apprehension.

When the suspect was searched, officers found a second loaded handgun (a Kel-Tec .380 caliber semi-automatic) in his jacket pocket, and methamphetamine was found in the suspect's truck.

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"I want to thank you for all your help. The training you provided a month ago, as well as this week, has been invaluable. All the K-9 Officers at the seminar were extremely happy with the results they received."

— **Lieutenant Tom Conroy,**
2nd place overall,
2006 USPCA Natl. Championships.
3rd place overall,
2004 USPCA Natl. Championships.
2nd place overall,
2003 USPCA Natl. Championships.

Must-see videos on website!

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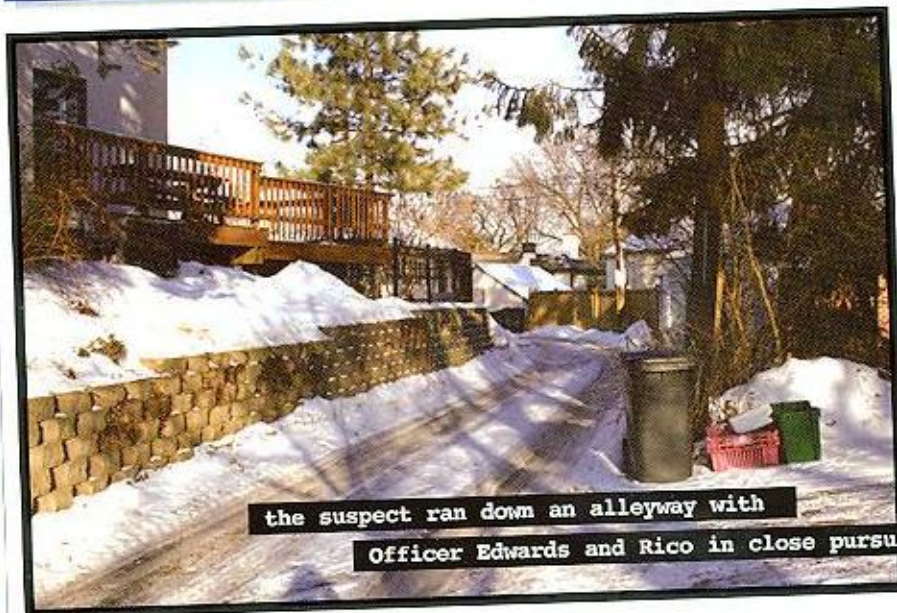
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for a seminar**



DEPLOYMENT

teamwork under fire



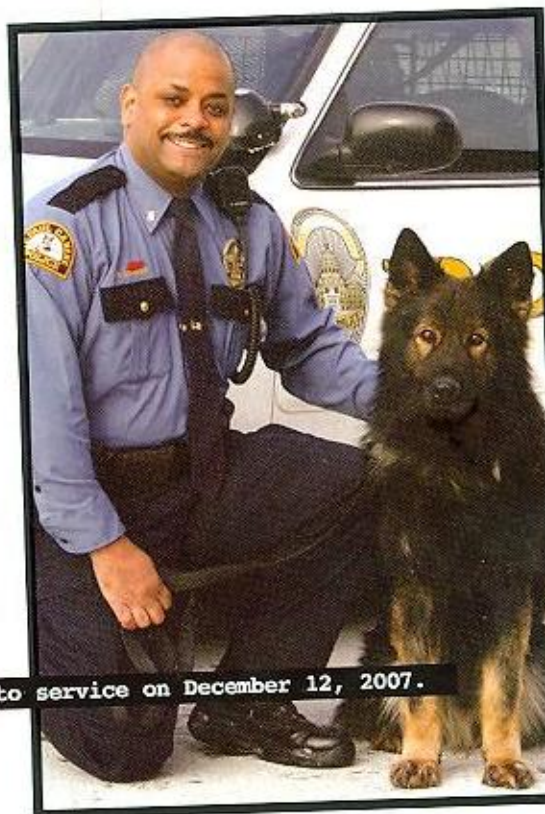
**the suspect ran down an alleyway with
Officer Edwards and Rico in close pursuit.**

Ultimate Response

After K-9 Rico was secured from the apprehension, he was found to have suffered a gunshot wound to his right paw and foreleg. Officer Edwards rushed Rico to the University of Minnesota Veterinary Hospital for emergency treatment. At the hospital, the veterinarian discovered that a bullet had traveled through the bottom of K-9 Rico's paw and up his right foreleg, almost completely severing his upper pad. K-9 Rico returned to service on December 12, 2007, after 10 weeks of convalescence.

Officer Edwards and K-9 Rico displayed the ultimate actions of any police service dog team: engaging an armed suspect in a running gunfight while K-9 Rico

drew the suspect's attention and distracted him from firing on Officer Edwards. Rico displayed incredible focus, apprehending and disarming the suspect while under fire and enduring a gunshot wound during the apprehension while maintaining control of the fugitive, ultimately saving Officer Edwards' life. ■



K-9 Rico returned to service on December 12, 2007.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE ST. PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT